

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



DEBORA B. PIGNATELLI
EXECUTIVE COUNCILOR
DISTRICT FIVE

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End of the Year Report 2019 from Councilor Debora Pignatelli

It is an honor for me to represent District Five on the Executive Council. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the important work we have achieved this past year. The Governor and Executive Council had 23 meetings in 2019. Most meetings were held at the State House but six were hosted in communities around the state. I was pleased to bring the Governor and Council to District Five on September 18th when Peterborough hosted our meeting at the Peterborough Town House.

The Executive Council has been an important part of the Executive Branch of NH State Government since colonial times as a check on executive powers. In this capacity we reviewed over two thousand items that covered expenditures, appointments and contracts. Those items totaled over 6 billion dollars.

The responsibilities of the Council are very wide-ranging. In addition to approving all state contracts, as I mentioned, the Council also approves all judicial appointments, approves all people to lead our important agencies and commissions, grants or denies all pardons, protects our lakefronts and shorelines, sets the tolls on all New Hampshire Turnpikes, makes important recommendations on the Ten Year highway plan, oversees the operations of state agencies, addresses a wide variety of constituent concerns, and, of course, acts as a important check on gubernatorial exercise of power.

Another important responsibility is our position on the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation, otherwise known as (GACIT.) We reviewed needed transportation improvements and created a ten-year plan that is submitted to the Governor and then will be forwarded to the Legislature. I held meetings in District Five to gather input from local leaders and citizens on what projects were important to be included and ranked in the Ten Year Highway plan. Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/index.htm>

In November, the Council passed our recommendations on to the Governor. After 17 years of advocating for the removal of the Merrimack tolls, I was pleased that the Council recommended the toll for Exit 11, in Merrimack, be reduced to zero!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debora".

Debora B. Pignatelli
Executive Councilor